mis-apprehension. One hon'ble member made that statement. It is not correct. Government have already sanctioned a road in Pullut for 3 to 4 thousand rupees. Another road and canal in Chennamangalam are under consideration and the estimates are being got ready and the matter will be placed before the Government very soon. That statement is therefore on a wrong impression. With regard to Vallivattom a petition was received and sent to me for remarks. I made enquiries. No doubt there is famine; but no concrete proposal for a road or canal has been suggested in those areas. It was not possible for me to make any proposal to Government. So far as the Talappalli Taluk is concerned, the coir made there is not exported to any place. It is hardly sufficient for local consumption. I do not think that that area is affected in the coir industry by war conditions. So far as the Trichur Taluk is concerned, I went to one or two places. Some road works were pointed out to me. In my own view I have not been able to find out any work to be taken up there as a relief work in the sense we have been doing relief works here. There is no filling up of paddy fields there and the road work which was pointed out to me was a road in which there was no large earth work to be done. The relief which could be given there to the affected people would not be commensurate with the amount which would have to be spent for land acquisition and metalling of roads. I have not, therefore, placed that matter before the Government. I do not mean that those areas are not affected. In Vallivattom nothing has been brought to my notice in the nature of a concrete proposal. Therefore, I concluded that though there was famine, it was not to such an extent that people could give concrete proposals.

Demand put and carried

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram)* : A Committee may be constituted to conduct a survey of these villages.

7. Rs. 9,000 under "28—Public Works—A—Civil Engineering-Miscellaneous."

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 9,000 under "28 Public Works-A-Civil Engineering-Miscellaneous". This amount forms part of an expenditure of about Rs. 27,000 for acquiring lands for the T. D. High School, Mattancheri, for the purpose of making a play-ground and for other connected purposes. The Government have agreed to give a free contribution of Rs. 9,000 towards this expenditure. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction this allotment.

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Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin Christians-Cranganur):* Sir, I oppose this grant. I oppose this not because I am against providing sufficient playgrounds for the schools, but, on the other hand, I appreciate and I would advocate that sufficient playgrounds should be provided for all our schools. But I oppose this grant on the principle that it is not advisable to encourage this policy of asking for additional allotments for purposes which could reasonably be anticipated at the time of framing the budget. The Thirumala Devaswam had already given some 5 acres of land for the purpose of building the High School of which a part has been utilised for another institution. Government, while utilising a portion of the land for building another institution, should have anticipated that if they did so, there would arise this difficulty for finding sufficient accommodation for the playground. But Government did not make provision for this purpose when the last budget was prepared. I submit that this is not the proper time to ask for additional grants on that score. After all, this is not a very urgent item of expenditure and Government can very well wait for this till the next budget. There are also several high schools which are run in this State and outside without playgrounds. It is on a principle that this sort of additional allotments should not be allowed in the middle of the year that I oppose this grant.

Another point that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this. About Rs. 27,000 has been spent for purchasing about 2 acres and 6 cents of land for the purpose of this playground. So much money had to be spent because the grounds acquired are situate in a very important and prominent part of the town. I also understand that a major portion of the acquisition charges goes towards the cost of buildings. In this connection, let me ask a question. Is there any law that the playgrounds should be located touching the institutions themselves? Are there not High Schools and Colleges where playgrounds are located a mile and more distant from the institutions? Have we not got such instances in Madras? Why not the Government curtail the expenditure by finding out a suitable place half-a-mile or even a mile distant, as the cost of acquisition in that case would be reduced by more than half of what we may have to pay now. On these grounds, Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* On a point of information Sir, ൨൭" famine relief വക്കിൽ പെടുതാണോ ?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know Sir, whether there are any other institutions to which a similar aid is given for playgrounds? What I understand is that generally in the case of aided institutions, for providing playgrounds, they should

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spend the money themselves. Here, Government have contributed Rs. 9,000 from the general funds. I would like to know whether there has been any instance where Government has contributed a portion of the expenditure to an aided institution for providing playgrounds. Of course in this case the institution is one managed by Government. Cases might arise where other schools also will find out Rs. 18,000 and ask the Government for this grant.

***Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*:* What really happened is this. The case of any school within the Mattancheri town is somewhat singular, because I do not think any ordinary manager would be in a position to acquire lands within the heart of the Mattancheri town without some sort of assistance from Government and it seems to me, Sir, in giving Rs. 18,000 for this purpose, the Thirumala Devaswam has made a very handsome gift. As a matter of fact, they have given grounds on which the two schools—the T. D. High School and the Government Lower Secondary School—are now standing. Moreover, they had also to meet a good lot of expenditure.

Further, whatever the hon'ble member may think, the provision of a playground in the heart of the Mattancheri town will also be an item of town improvement. There is absolutely no doubt that it would be a civic centre so that when all these circumstances are taken into consideration, the case of the T. D. High School is unique. And therefore this grant should not be held up on the ground that this is a case which we should universalise. Moreover Government have made free gifts of lands in the case of some schools. In the case of some others they have acquired lands and then handed them over to the institutions free. In the case of the T. D. High School it is not possible to find out lands even within the one-mile radius for acquisition for playground purposes. I doubt whether we can procure lands even in Palluruthi suitable for our purpose. If I am wrong, the Hon'ble Member for Revenue will correct me.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundpuram)*: There is Koovapadam.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Unless you have sufficient premises in the form of playgrounds the life in a school will be very difficult.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: I would like to know, on a point of information, whether such a grant was made towards the playgrounds in any of the previous years. I want a 'yes' or 'no'.

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Yes. Free playgrounds have been provided by the Government in certain cases.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Sir, I want to know how it is that the Government were not in a position to anticipate this expenditure while framing the budget for this year. How is it that such a demand props up just in the middle of the year?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I am very thankful to know that Government has been earnest enough to give us this playground in Mattancheri. I have been pressing this matter to the attention of the Government ever since I came here in the present Council. The Thirumala Devaswam School is housed in an area where on the one side of it, we have got a nasty canal. And if the children have got no playground and if it is denied to them, their condition would be very very sad. I know as a matter of fact that the Thirumala Devaswam authorities were considering this question of providing a suitable playground for the High School and it is only recently that they made this offer of Rs. 18,000 and requested the Government to give them the balance, so that the question of this grant coming at this part of the year does not arise.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will the hon'ble member inform the House whether there is not a playground there?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* There is no playground there. If there has been one I would have been the first to oppose this grant.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I thought this was an extension of the playgrounds, because this is a time of extensions *(laughter)*.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: No extension.

I may correct the Hon'ble Member for Latin Christians, Cranganur, that within 2 or 3 miles radius of the institution there is no place that would be available at a cheaper price. Probably because the T. D. authorities have now come forward with Rs. 18,000 *i.e.*, about 2/3 of the expenditure, that has induced the Government also to contribute 1/3 of the expenditure *(hear, hear)*.

And then you accused the Government as to why this was not anticipated while framing the budget, and why this has come here in the middle of the year. All these are arguments which are obviously quite unnecessary in this case. I say this expenditure could not be anticipated at the time of the budget and this is the first occasion

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after the budget session when Government could place this before this House. I understand that it is only 3 weeks now since the Thirumala Devaswam authorities made up their mind to contribute Rs. 18,0.0 for this purpose. Under these circumstances, I am very glad that the Government brought this before the House at the earliest possible moment. I hope the department concerned will hurry up with the work and finish it as early as possible.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I can say this much. If a good thing is done, whether it is done at midnight or in the morning, it remains a good thing. It has been conceded everywhere that it is a good thing that a playground is given: but an objection is raised that it should not be given at a particular part of the year and that it should be given only at another time. That is carrying technicality too far. So much for the first point.

The second point is whether this playground should not be given to every school asking for it. I say, why worry about it? If one institution is given, possibly every institution will get it in due course. At least it is gratifying for us to see that a demand from one part of the State is exhausted.

Then, going into the wider aspects of this question, I should say that though Trichur, Ernakulam and even Trippunittura and other places enjoy Sirkar High Schools, Mattancheri town does not enjoy even one Government high school. Ernakulam has 2 or 3 high schools maintained by Government apart from Colleges. In Trichur also it is not much worse. Even in Trippunittura we have got Government High Schools within the town. While that is a fact, in Mattancheri, Government is not maintaining even a single High School. And when the cry comes from Mattancheri for a playground for a school maintained by private agency, and a help from the Government of Rs. 9,000 is asked for it is the duty of the Government to render the necessary help all at once—whether it is given at midnight or in the morning does not matter. Further this High School is open to all classes and to my information, there are about a thousand students of all classes attending that school. In contrast to several other Devaswams which accumulate their wealth and spend it on institutions open to a few or for feeding Brahmins and others, it is gratifyiny to note that at least this Devaswam is utilising some amount for the benefit of the public and their children. For these reasons I strongly support this grant.

Demand put and carried.

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